

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims, with amendments to claims 75 and 79, cancellation of claims 77-78, and addition of new claims 95-100, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. ***No new matter is introduced as a result of the following claim amendments.***

Listing of Claims:

Claim 75 (Currently Amended). A support stand, comprising:

a flat, planar, rigid base;

a pair of support members disposed on a top surface of the base, each support member having a single, planar holding surface oriented so as to be substantially perpendicular to the top surface of the base and opposed to each other, and wherein a first of the pair of support members is slidably engaged with the top surface of the base such that the holding surface of the first support member can be slid toward or away from the holding surface of the second support member; ~~and~~

a securing apparatus capable of releasably securing the first support member to the base so as to prevent relative motion between that member and the base;

wherein the first support member comprises an L-shaped bracket, a first leg of which extends substantially perpendicular to the base and has a face which forms the planar holding surface of the first support member, and a second leg of which has a face which is slidably engaged with the top surface of the base; and

wherein the second leg of the first support member comprises a slot oriented so as to be substantially perpendicular to the face forming the planar holding surface of the first support member, and wherein the securing apparatus comprises,

a threaded pin protruding substantially perpendicular from the top surface of the base which has a distal end that extends through the slot of the first support member, and

a threaded knob which is threadably mated to the threaded pin and which in a disengaged mode allows the first support member to be slid in relation to the base, and in an engaged mode wherein the knob is rotated down on the pin so as to compress the

second leg of the first support member against the top surface of the base, prevents the first support member from sliding in relation to the base.

Claim 76 (Original). The support stand of Claim 75, wherein the second support member is permanently affixed to the base.

Claim 77-78 (Cancelled).

Claim 79 (Currently Amended). The support stand of Claim ~~78~~ 75, further comprising a second pin protruding substantially perpendicular from the top surface of the base which has a distal end that extends into the slot of the first support member, whereby the second pin prevents rotation of the first support member about the threaded pin.

Claim 80 (Original). The support stand of Claim 79, wherein the second pin is disposed further outward on the base than the threaded pin such that the second pin limits how far the first support member can be slid toward the second support member and the threaded pin limits how far the first support member can be slid away from the second support member.

Claim 81 (Original). The support stand of Claim 75, wherein the second support member is also slidably engaged with the top surface of the base such that the holding surface of the second support member can be slid toward or away from the holding surface of the first support member, and wherein the support stand further comprises a second securing apparatus capable of releasably securing the second support member to the base so as to prevent relative motion between the second member and the base.

Claim 82 (Original). The support stand of Claim 81, wherein the second support member comprises an L-shaped bracket, a first leg of which extends substantially perpendicular to the base and has a face which forms the planar holding surface of the second support member, and a second leg of which has a face which is slidably engaged with the top surface of the base.

Claim 83 (Original). The support stand of 82, wherein the second leg of the second support member comprises a slot oriented so as to be substantially perpendicular to the face forming the planar holding surface of the second support member, and wherein the second securing apparatus comprises,

a threaded pin protruding substantially perpendicular from the top surface of the base which has a distal end that extends through the slot of the second support member, and

a threaded knob which is threadably mated to the threaded pin and which in a disengaged mode allows the second support member to be slid in relation to the base, and in an engaged mode wherein the knob is rotated down on the pin so as to compress the second leg of the second support member against the top surface of the base, prevents the second support member from sliding in relation to the base.

Claim 84 (Original). The support stand of Claim 83, further comprising a second pin protruding substantially perpendicular from the top surface of the base which has a distal end that extends into the slot of the second support member, whereby the second pin prevents rotation of the second support member about the threaded pin.

Claim 85 (Original). The support stand of Claim 84, wherein the second pin is disposed further outward on the base than the threaded pin such that the second pin limits how far the second support member can be slid toward the first support member and the threaded pin limits how far the second support member can be slid away from the first support member.

Claim 86 (Original). The support stand of Claim 75, wherein the base has a bottom surface which is in contact with the ground or floor, and wherein the base is of sufficient size and shape so that whenever a display item is held in an upright position between the planar holding surfaces of the support members, it is prevented from tipping over.

Claim 87 (Original). The support stand of Claim 86, wherein the top and bottom surfaces of the base have an elongated rectangular-shape and a longitudinal axis which extends substantially perpendicular to the planar holding surfaces of the support members.

Claim 88 (Original). The support stand of Claim 86, wherein the top and bottom surfaces of the base have a substantially square shape.

Claim 89 (Original). The support stand of Claim 75, further comprising at least two wheels, each of which is attached to a bottom surface of the base, so as to allow the support stand to be rolled about.

Claim 90 (Original). The support stand of Claim 75, wherein the base is made of metal and coated with a rust-resistant plating material.

Claim 91 (Original). The support stand of Claim 75, wherein each support member is made of metal and coated with a rust-resistant plating material.

Claim 92 (Original). A support stand, comprising:

- a flat, planar, rigid base;

- a single support member disposed on a top surface of the base having a single, planar holding surface oriented so as to be substantially perpendicular to the top surface of the base, and wherein the support member is slidably engaged with the top surface of the base such that the holding surface of the support member can be slid inward or outward on the base;

- a first securing apparatus capable of releasably securing the support member to the base so as to prevent relative motion between that member and the base; and

- a second securing apparatus for attaching the support member to an item placed against the planar holding face of the support member, so as to hold the item in an upright position.

Claim 93 (Original). The support stand of Claim 92, wherein the support member comprises an L-shaped bracket, a first leg of which extends substantially perpendicular to the base and has a face which forms the planar holding surface of the support member, and a second leg of which has a face that is slidably engaged with the top surface of the base.

Claim 94 (Original). The support stand of Claim 93, wherein first leg of the support member comprises at least one through-hole disposed adjacent the distal end of the leg, and wherein the second securing apparatus comprises a screw, the head of which is retained by the at least one through-hole and the shaft of which is driven into the item being held in an upright position by the support stand.

Claim 95 (New). A support stand, comprising:

- a flat, planar, rigid base;

- a pair of support members disposed on a top surface of the base, each support member having a single, planar holding surface oriented so as to be substantially perpendicular to the top surface of the base and opposed to each other,

- wherein a first of the pair of support members is slidably engaged with the top surface of the base such that the holding surface of the first support member can be slid toward or away from the holding surface of the second support member;

- wherein the second support member is permanently affixed to the base; and

- a securing apparatus capable of releasably securing the first support member to the base so as to prevent relative motion between that member and the base.

Claim 96 (New). The support stand of Claim 95, wherein the first support member comprises an L-shaped bracket, a first leg of which extends substantially perpendicular to the base and has a face which forms the planar holding surface of the first support member, and a second leg of which has a face which is slidably engaged with the top surface of the base.

Claim 97 (New). The support stand of Claim 96, wherein the second leg of the first support member comprises a slot oriented so as to be substantially perpendicular to the face forming the planar holding surface of the first support member, and wherein the securing apparatus comprises,

- a threaded pin protruding substantially perpendicular from the top surface of the base which has a distal end that extends through the slot of the first support member, and

- a threaded knob which is threadably mated to the threaded pin and which in a disengaged mode allows the first support member to be slid in relation to the base, and in

an engaged mode wherein the knob is rotated down on the pin so as to compress the second leg of the first support member against the top surface of the base, prevents the first support member from sliding in relation to the base.

Claim 98 (New). The support stand of Claim 97, further comprising a second pin protruding substantially perpendicular from the top surface of the base which has a distal end that extends into the slot of the first support member, whereby the second pin prevents rotation of the first support member about the threaded pin.

Claim 99 (New). The support stand of Claim 98, wherein the second pin is disposed further outward on the base than the threaded pin such that the second pin limits how far the first support member can be slid toward the second support member and the threaded pin limits how far the first support member can be slid away from the second support member.

Claim 100 (New). The support stand of Claim 95, further comprising at least two wheels, each of which is attached to a bottom surface of the base, so as to allow the support stand to be rolled about.